

Monday April 12, 2010 12:17 PM

By Valerie Baldowski vbaldowski@henryherald.com

Jackie Gingrich Cushman, daughter of former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, will headline an upcoming meeting of the Conservative Republican Women of Henry County.

Cushman will speak during the group's April 15 meeting, at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Merle Manders Conference Center, at 111 Davis Road in Stockbridge.

She will discuss her book, written with her father, entitled "5 Principles for a Successful Life: From Our Family to Yours." It was published in May 2009.

"He and I were talking one day," Cushman said. "My children's memory of my dad was that he was already the former speaker. They saw him on TV, and saw his speeches, but they didn't understand his journey.

"I wanted them to have a playbook, so they could be successful," Cushman added. "That's how it started."

An advocate of conservatism in government, Cushman campaigned for more than two decades with her father. Cushman said she supports the idea of individuals becoming actively involved in government.

Cushman and her husband, Jimmy Cushman, Jr., have two children, Maggie, 10, and Robert, 8.

Cushman said the book chronicles the success stories of her and her father, and includes advice under the headings of "dream big," "work hard," "learn every day," "enjoy life," and "be true to yourself."

"My main message is that optimism works," said Cushman. "If we are optimistic, persistent, and work hard, then we really create that great future for our country. We all have gifts to bring to the table, to help others."